



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/734,500 | 12/12/2003 | Demetrius Bagley | 1016740027P2 | 1614 |
| 34284 | 7590 | 12/04/2009 | EXAMINER | |
| Rutan & Tucker, LLP. 611 ANTON BLVD SUITE 1400 COSTA MESA, CA 92626 | | | RYCKMAN, MELISSA K | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 3773 | |
| | | | MAIL DATE | DELIVERY MODE |
| | | | 12/04/2009 | PAPER |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/734,500 | Applicant(s) BAGLEY ET AL. | |
| | Examiner MELISSA RYCKMAN | Art Unit 3773 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 8/11/09.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 23,24,33,34,37,38 and 41-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 23,24,33,34,37,38 and 41-43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This office action is in response to claims files 8/11/09.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 23, 24, 37, 38, 41 and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Utsugi (US 4198960) and further in view of Nishtala et al. (US 6371963 B1).

Utsugi teaches a retrieval device comprising:

- A hollow handle (Fig. 1)
- An elongate sheath (30) extending from the handle
- A three-dimensional basket (33) having at least three legs, the distal end is coupled to a tip member (34), the proximal end of first and second legs being connected to the distal end of the first operating member, and the proximal end of a third leg being connected to the distal end of the second operating member (“col. 4, ll. 36-43, “the trapping wires 33 are individually operated”)
- A first actuator (col. 4, ll. 36-43, “the trapping wires 33 are individually operated”) configured to extend a first operating member so as to extend the first and second legs, and to simultaneously retract the second operating member so as to retract a third leg (Fig. 7), such that the tip member is displaced rearward and

the first and second legs are displaced away from each other to facilitate maneuvering the basket around an object (Fig. 7)

- A second actuator (col. 4, ll. 36-43, “the trapping wires 33 are individually operated”) configured to simultaneously extend or retract the legs of the basket such that the basket translates forward or rearward depending on the direction of manipulation of the second actuator (capable of simultaneously moving)

Utsugi teaches (col. 4, ll. 36-43), “the trapping wires 33 are individually operated”, but does not specify operating members. However, Nishtal teaches the following limitations allowing for individual operation:

- A first operating member (115) having a proximal end positioned within the handle (Fig. 1) and a distal end positioned adjacent the distal end of the sheath (sheath near 125 in Fig. 1) such that the first operating member extends from within the handle and into the sheath
- A second operating member (113) having a proximal end positioned within the handle (Fig. 1) and a distal end positioned adjacent the distal end of the sheath (Fig. 1) such that the second operating member extends from within the handle and into the sheath
- Wherein the first actuator comprises a wheel (117)
- Wherein the second actuator comprises a slide (119) that is actuated by axially translating the slide
- The operating members comprise tubes (113 and 115)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Utsugi with Nishtala, since having a wheel for an actuator and a slide for a second actuator are commonly known actuators in the art, and are useful in maneuvering objects. The substitution of the actuator of Utsugi with the actuator of Nishtala would be expected to yield a device which actuates the basket as described in the claims (this is a predictable result).

Claims 33 and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Utsugi and Nishtala, as applied to claims 23 above, and further in view of McClellan et al. (US 2002/0019594).

The combination of Utsugi and Nishtala teach all limitations of preceding dependent claim 23, but fails to teach wherein the legs are formed of shape memory material. McClellan teaches a surgical retrieval device wherein the legs are formed of shape memory material in order to aid in releasing the basket from its radially restrained configuration for insertion. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Utsugi and Nishtala with shape memory material in order to aid in releasing the basket from its radially restrained configuration for insertion.

Claim 34 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Utsugi and Nishtala as applied to claim 23 above, and further in view of Bates (U.S. Patent No. 6,527,781).

Utsugi and Rydell teach the claimed invention but do not include the tip member comprising a hole, each leg being secured to the tip member by inserting the forward end of the leg into the hole and crimping the tip member. However, Bates teaches a medical retrieval device comprising a three dimensional basket formed of legs joined at a junction (cap) by soldering, gluing or any means known in the art in order to provide an atraumatic wire basket. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Rydell and Utsugi to provide the junction of Bates in order to provide an atraumatic wire basket.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 8/11/09 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The applicant argues:

- Utsugi does not teach or suggest simultaneously extending a set of wires while retracting another set of wires
- Nishtala teaches away from Utsugi, because Utsugi teaches the wires are individually operated which would prevent using the actuator of Nishtala.

The examiner's position is that Utsugi teaches the wires are capable of being moved simultaneously as figure 7 in Utsugi shows, and col. 4, ll. 35-58 discuss the wires being extended and causing the other wires to be pulled back. Utsugi teach individual operation because the necessary automatic mechanism to move the trap is not present in Utsugi, while it is present in Nishtala. In addition, Utsugi discuss moving the entire trap together (col. 4, ll. 45, 46)--thus the wires are moved simultaneously.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MELISSA RYCKMAN whose telephone number is (571)272-9969. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 7:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jackie Ho can be reached on (571)-272-4696. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3773

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MKR

/Melissa Ryckman/
Examiner, Art Unit 3773

/Julian W. Woo/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3773